

learning-disabled fourth, fifth, and sixth-graders. During this time, Dan initiated the first Educationally Handicapped program for the Evergreen School District. After discovering the need to increase access to mental health centers in Santa Clara County, among other issues, Dan decided to run for the Board of Supervisors there.

In 1972, Dan was elected to the Board, serving as a Chairperson for two of his three terms. As a Supervisor, Dan took local leadership on justice and gender and racial equality, health care access, environment, and transportation issues.

Dan never backed down from his lifelong fight against discrimination and injustice. He worked to bring in women, minorities, and individuals living with developmental disabilities to the workforce. For example, Dan appointed the first woman commissioner to the Fire Commission. He also garnered Board consensus regarding supporting workshops, job training, and a program to ease job access for the developmentally disabled.

During his tenure on the Board, Dan expanded his efforts beyond local leadership, representing Santa Clara County on regional and state-wide governing Boards and Commissions, including becoming a member and Chairperson of the Bay Area Quality Management District, and a member of the Bay Conservation and Development Commission, the Association of Bay Area Governments, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, and the Advisory Council of the State Office of Planning and Research.

In 1982, Dan was elected State Senator where he served for three terms. As a Senator, Dan authored legislation in a variety of areas including: comprehensive water plans for the State, water reclamation, conservation, consumer protection, people with disabilities, LGBT issues, and humane treatment of animals.

After leaving office, Dan worked as a Commissioner on the California Medical Assistance Commission with the Office of the Governor, working to enhance access to medical care for those in need.

Throughout his career Dan has been known for his stellar work ethic, incredible resilience, professionalism, and commitment to hard work in the best interest of the people. I wish Dan the happiest of birthdays, congratulate him on his impressive career, and commend him for his invaluable service to our community and the State of California. We have been lucky to have him.

HONORING CONGRESSIONAL
BLACK CAUCUS CHAIRWOMAN
MARCIA FUDGE

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with my colleagues to pay tribute to the indelible mark my colleague and friend Representative MARCIA FUDGE has had on the Congressional BLACK CAUCUS during her time as our chairwoman in the 113th Congress.

She has been an outstanding chairwoman to the Congressional Black Caucus and I have been honored to serve under her fine leader-

ship. As the true embodiment of the "conscience of the Congress," Chairwoman FUDGE has been a tireless champion for blue-collar workers, food stamp recipients, students, and communities of color. She has also been a staunch advocate for voter protection, job creation, and fair housing. As a dedicated public servant, she has continuously represented the needs of both her constituents and underrepresented Americans across this country.

Under Chairwoman FUDGE's leadership, 14 members of the Congressional Black Caucus traveled to my district in September 2013 to honor the lives of the four little girls killed in the 1963 bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church. She has also traveled to my hometown of Selma on multiple occasions to commemorate the Selma-to-Montgomery March and Bloody Sunday.

On a personal note, Chairwoman FUDGE has and continues to serve as a great friend and mentor to me. I am inspired by her work ethic, problem solving spirit, and remarkable insight and knowledge. With these qualities and more, she has proven to be invaluable to not only the Congressional Black Caucus, but to the Congress as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, Chairwoman FUDGE has led the Congressional Black Caucus with great character and an unwavering commitment to ensuring that all Americans are given equal opportunities to reach their full potential. Thank you, Chairwoman FUDGE for your service and astute leadership.

FALLEN MICHIGAN SHERIFF'S
DEPUTY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Deputy Grant William Whitaker who was killed in the line of duty on Sunday, December 7, 2014 in Stockbridge Township, Michigan. Deputy Whitaker was 25 years old and had been with the Ingham County Sheriff's Office for one and a half years. Deputy Whitaker had previously served as a police officer with Stockbridge Police Department and Waterloo Township Police. Grant grew up with the drive to serve his community and found his calling in law enforcement. A native of Stockbridge, Grant went to Stockbridge High School where he played baseball. He was an avid outdoorsman who hunted deer, waterfowl and turkey. He enjoyed playing pool and golf and spending time with his nephews. It is tragic when any loved one passes, and to lose someone so young and so dedicated to his community is a terrible loss indeed. My thoughts and prayers are with Grant's parents and family during this difficult time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding a missed vote on Decem-

ber 10, 2014. Had I been present for roll call vote number 560, H.R. 1204, on the motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment for the Aviation Security Stakeholder Participation Act of 2014, I would have voted "yay."

CONGO-BRAZZAVILLE

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, 2015 will be an important year for the future of African democracy. Many countries on the continent will either hold or prepare for Presidential elections. If recent history is any guide, some long-serving African leaders will be tempted to alter constitutions or take other quasi-legal steps to extend their rule. I strongly encourage these leaders, including President Sassou-Nguesso of Congo-Brazzaville, to resist this temptation and to respect the will of their people.

Congo-Brazzaville has enormous natural resource wealth, including oil, minerals and timber. In 2014, the nation's GDP will be an estimated \$12.9 billion. It has also received nearly \$2 billion in debt relief since 2010. However, it is ranked 142 out of 186 on the U.N. Human Development Index—in other words, human development is low. Political opposition is repressed, so discussion about governance and how to improve and deliver broader economic growth is limited.

In 2016, when it is time for the people of Congo-Brazzaville to go to the polls and elect a President, they deserve the chance to choose a new leader who will endeavor to deliver equitable growth to their country. According to the constitution, that should be their right—President Nguesso's two 7-year terms will have expired. However, there are indications that he is considering amending that constitution so he is eligible to run again, further extending his 30-year long rule.

The events in Burkina Faso earlier this fall should give pause to any leader considering constitutional changes that would allow them to extend their rule. President Nguesso should allow the voters of Congo-Brazzaville to select a new leader and engage in real democracy—a process that involves a peaceful change in government.

Let 2015 be a year filled with peace and prosperity for the Congolese people. Let a legitimate, democratic transfer of power be the legacy of President Sassou-Nguesso. Let his actions serve as a model and inspiration for other leaders in the region. And let democracy and the rule of law prosper in sub-Saharan Africa.

HONOR AND PRIVILEGE OF SERVING
IN CONGRESS FOR THE
PAST 18 YEARS

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, Like several members before me, as I prepare to depart, I rise to address this body in which I